

## Aaron M. Griffith

Curriculum Vitae

Fall 2023

Department of Philosophy  
College of William & Mary  
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Williamsburg, VA 23187

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### AREAS OF

**SPECIALIZATION** Metaphysics (truth, truthmaking, grounding, social ontology, time), Philosophy of Race, Kant (esp. metaphysics and epistemology)

### AREAS OF

**COMPETENCE** 19<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy, Ethics, Feminism, Philosophy of Mind

### EMPLOYMENT

College of William & Mary, Associate Professor (2021-present)  
College of William & Mary, Assistant Professor (2015-2021)  
Central Michigan University, Lecturer (2013-2015)  
California State University, Long Beach, Lecturer (Fall 2011)  
University of California, Irvine, Teaching Associate (2010-2012)

### EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, Spring 2013, University of California, Irvine  
*Ways of Truthmaking: A Pluralist Theory of Truthmaking*  
Committee: Sven Bernecker (Chair), David W. Smith, M. Oreste Fiocco,  
Gila Sher.  
M.A., (with distinction) Philosophy, Winter 2009 University of California, Irvine  
B.A., Philosophy and Religion, Spring 2004, Calvin College

### PUBLICATIONS

- (22) “Basic Racial Realism, Social Constructionism, and the Ordinary Concept of Race” (forthcoming). *Journal of Social Philosophy*.
- (21) “Essence and Social Construction.” *Routledge Handbook of Essence*, Kathrin Koslicki and Mike Raven (eds.). Routledge, forthcoming.
- (20) “What is Systemic Racism?” (forthcoming). *Think: Philosophy for Everyone*.
- (19) “Presentism, Truthmaking, and the Nature of Truth.” (forthcoming). *Analytic Philosophy*.
- (18) “The Dependence of Truth on Being in Asay’s *A Theory of Truthmaking*.” (2022). *Asian Journal of Philosophy*. 1(2): 1 – 6.
- (17) “True by Default.” (2022). *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*. 8(1): 92-109.
- (16) “Randomness and God’s Providence: Defining the Problem(s)” (2021) with Arash Naraghi. *Abrahamic Reflections on Randomness and Providence*, Kelly James Clark and Jeffrey Koperski (eds.). Palgrave: 29-53.
- (15) “Individualistic and Structural Explanations in Ásta’s *Categories We Live By*.” (2020). *Journal of Social Ontology*. 5(2): 251 – 260.
- (14) “Realizing Race.” (2020). *Philosophical Studies*. 177(7): 1919 – 1934.
- (13) “Review of *The Metaphysics of Truth* by Douglas Edwards.” (2019). *Analysis* 79(4): 805-809.
- (12) “Metaphysics and Social Justice.” (2019) *Philosophy Compass* 14: e12594. <https://doi.org/10.1111/phc3.12594>

- (11) "Truthmaking." (2019) *Oxford Bibliographies* in "Philosophy." Ed. Duncan Pritchard. New York: Oxford University Press, <https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780195396577/obo-9780195396577-0058.xml?rskkey=Nwq1sP&result=1&q=truthmaking#firstMatch>
- (10) "Intergenerational Rights and the Problem of Cross-Temporal Relations." (2018) *Erkenntnis*. 83(4): 693-710.
- (9) "Social Construction: Big-G Grounding, Small-g Realization." (2018) *Philosophical Studies*. 175(1): 241-260.
- (8) "Social Construction and Grounding." (2018) *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 97(2): 393-409.
- (7) "The Rights of Future Persons and the Ontology of Time." (2017) *Journal of Social Philosophy*. 48(1): 58-70.
- (6) "Towards a Pluralist Theory of Truthmaking." (2015) *Erkenntnis*. 80(6): 1157-1173.
- (5) "Do Ontological Categories Exist?" (2015) *Metaphysica*. 16(1): 25-36.
- (4) "How Negative Truths are Made True." (2015) *Synthese*. 192 (1): 317-335.
- (3) "Truthmaking and Grounding." (2014) *Inquiry*. 57(2): 196-215.
- (2) "On Some Alleged Truthmakers for Negatives." (2013) *Thought*. 1(4): 301-308.
- (1) "Perception and the Categories: A Conceptualist Reading of Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*." (2012) *European Journal of Philosophy*. 20(2): 193-222.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

A book project on truth and social reality

## AWARDS

College of William & Mary Faculty Summer Research Grant 2016: \$3000  
 College of William & Mary Faculty Summer Research Grant 2017: \$3000  
 UC Irvine Dean's Graduate Dissertation Fellowship, Winter 2013  
 Oxford Bibliographies Online: Philosophy Graduate Student Prize 2012 (\$350 Honorarium)  
 Matchette Foundation Award for Outstanding Graduate Student in Philosophy 2009 (interdepartmental award)  
 Graduate Essay Award, UC Irvine 2008 (interdepartmental award)  
 Regents Fellowship, School of Humanities UC Irvine 2006

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

### *Projects*

Research Fellow for the *Randomness and Providence: An Abrahamic Inquiry*. John Templeton Foundation funded project. Project Advisor: Kelly James Clark. Run through the Kaufman Interfaith Institute, Grand Valley State University. \$1 million grant. Attended four meetings (Kalamazoo, MI (2017), Orid Macedonia (2018), Casablanca Morocco and Amman Jordan (2019) and wrote a paper for a collected volume.

The University Teaching and Learning Project, College of William & Mary 2019-2020.

### *Talks (\* = Invited)*

- 2023 “Truth, Power, and Justice,” Alabama Philosophical Society meeting, Pensacola, FL.
- 2023 \* “Truthmaking and Social Ontology,” VCU, March 17.
- 2022 “A Truthmaking Account of Social Construction,” Social Metaphysics Workshop, Duke University.
- 2021 “Correspondence Truth and Social Reality,” International Social Ontology Society Meeting, online.
- 2021 \* “Essence and Social Construction,” Conference for Routledge Handbook of Essence, online.
- 2020 \* “Correspondence Truth and Social Reality,” Early Career Social Metaphysics Workshop, online.
- 2020 “True by Default,” *American Philosophical Association* (Eastern Division), Philadelphia, PA.
- 2019 \* “Randomness and God’s Providence: Defining the Problem(s),” with Arash Naraghi, *Randomness and Providence* Project, Amman, Jordan.
- 2019 \* “Randomness and God’s Providence: Defining the Problem(s),” with Arash Naraghi, *Randomness and Providence* Project, Casablanca, Morocco.
- 2018 “Anchoring Human Social Kinds,” Alabama Philosophical Society Meeting, Pensacola, FL.
- 2018 “Anchoring Human Social Kinds,” International Social Ontology Society Meeting, Tufts University. Boston, MA.
- 2018 \* “Randomness and God’s Providence: Defining the Problem(s),” with Arash Naraghi, *Randomness and Providence* Project, Ohrid, Macedonia.
- 2018 \* “Social Construction and the Aims of Justice,” City College of New York, NY.
- 2018 “Realizing Race,” *American Philosophical Association* (Pacific Division), San Diego, CA.
- 2017 “Realizing Race,” Alabama Philosophical Society Meeting, Pensacola, FL.
- 2017 \* “Realizing Race,” Junior Metaphysics Workshop, Virginia Tech University, Blacksburg, VA.
- 2016 “The Rights of Future Persons and the Ontology of Time,” Alabama Philosophical Society Meeting, Pensacola, FL.
- 2016 \* “The Rights of Future Persons and the Ontology of Time,” Ohio State University Social Metaphysics Workshop. Columbus, OH.
- 2016 \* “Obligations to Future Generations and the Metaphysics of Time,” *American Philosophical Association* (Eastern Division), Society of Christian Philosophers: Metaphysics Symposium. Washington D.C.
- 2015 “The Metaphysics of Social Construction: a ‘Grounding’ Account,” Alabama Philosophical Society Meeting, Pensacola, FL.
- 2015 \* “The Metaphysics of Social Construction: a ‘Grounding’ Account,” Junior Metaphysics Workshop, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, MI
- 2015 “The Metaphysics of Social Construction: a ‘Grounding’ Account,” *American Philosophical Association* (Central Division), St. Louis, MO.
- 2014 \* “Truthmaking Pluralism: How Positive and Negative Truths Depend on Being,” *American Philosophical Association* (Pacific Division), San Diego, CA
- 2014 \* “Presentism, Truthmaking, and Truth,” Philosophy Department Colloquium, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI.
- 2013 “A Pluralist Theory of Truthmaking,” *American Philosophical Association* (Eastern Division), Baltimore, MD.
- 2013 “Presentism, Truthmaking, and Truth,” *Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Colloquium*, Washington and Jefferson College, Pittsburgh, PA.

- 2012 “A Pluralist Theory of Truthmaking,” Main Paper *Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Colloquium*, Washington and Jefferson College, Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2012 “Truthmakers and ‘Suspicious’ Properties,” *North Carolina Philosophical Society and South Carolina Society for Philosophy Joint Meeting*, Elon University, Elon, NC.
- 2011 “Truthmakers for Negative Propositions,” *Northwest Philosophy Conference*, Lewis and Clark College, Portland, OR.
- 2008 “A Conceptualist Reading of Kant,” *Pacific Group Meeting North American Kant Society*, University of California, Irvine, CA.

### Referee

Articles: *Acta Analytica*, *American Philosophical Quarterly* (x2), *Analysis*, *Asian Journal of Philosophy*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (x7), *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* (x3), *Dialectica*, *Disputatio*, *Ergo* (x6), *Erkenntnis* (x7), *Feminist Philosophy Quarterly*, *Inquiry* (x5), *Journal of Social Ontology* (x2), *Journal of Social Philosophy*, *Journal for the Theory of Social Behavior*, *Kantian Review* (x2), *Kant Studies Online*, *Logique et Analyse*, *Metaphysics* (x2), *Mind* (x3), *Philosopher’s Imprint*, *Philosophia* (x3), *Philosophical Quarterly* (x3), *Philosophical Papers*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* (x3), *Philosophical Studies* (x6), *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, *Synthese* (x11), *Ratio*, *Theoria*, *Thought*, *Topoi* (x3)

Books: *Oxford University Press* (x2), *W.W. Norton & Co*, *Routledge*

*Australasian Philosophical Review* 7.4 (2023) Curatorial Team for “The ‘Post-Truth’ Crisis, and Value of Truth, and the Substantivist-Deflationist Debate” by Gila Sher.

### Comments

- 2023 Comments on “Staging the Social” by Jonathan Schaffer, at the *Social Metaphysics Workshop* at Duke University, Durham, NC.
- 2023 Comments on “The Modal Argument Against Social Grounding,” by Samuele Chilovi at the *Pacific American Philosophical Association*, San Francisco, CA.
- 2021 Author Meets Critics for Jamin Asay’s *A Theory of Truthmaking: Metaphysics, Ontology, and Reality* at Truth 2021, online.
- 2021 Comments on “Social Kinds\* and Social Groups,” by Rachel Cooper at the Re-Thinking Social Essences Workshop, online.
- 2019 Comments on “Norms and Object: A Normative Hylomorphic Theory of Social Objects,” by Asya Passinsky at the Early Career Metaphysics Workshop, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA.
- 2017 Comments on “About Propositions and their Component Facts,” by Aviv Hoffmann at the *American Philosophical Association* (Eastern Division), Baltimore, MD.
- 2013 Comments on “A Propositional Semantics for Substitutional Quantification,” by Geoff Georgi at the *Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Conference*, Washington and Jefferson College, Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2012 Chairperson for Metaphysics and Epistemology session at *North Carolina Philosophical Society and South Carolina Society for Philosophy Joint Meeting*, Elon University, Elon, NC.
- 2011 Comments on “Anything is Possible? Explaining False Beliefs about Possibility,” by Leigh Duffy at the *Northwest Philosophy Conference*, Lewis and Clark College, Portland, OR.

*Service*

William & Mary Pre-major Advising (2015 – present)  
 William & Mary University Library Committee (2018 – present)  
 William & Mary Faculty Research Committee (2019 – 2021)  
 William & Mary Diverse Philosophies Club Faculty Coordinator (2015 – present)  
 William & Mary Philosophy Department Diversity Advocate (2017 – present)  
 Organizer for the 2018 Early Career Metaphysics Workshop, College of William & Mary  
 Organizer for the 2016 - 2019 Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, College of William & Mary  
 Organizer for the 2020 Ethics and Metaphysics Workshop, College of William & Mary.  
 William & Mary Philosophy Department Faculty Affairs Committee (2022 – present)  
 William & Mary Gender, Sexuality, and Women Studies Department Personnel Committee (2022 – present)  
 Dissertation Committee for Emilie Pagano (University of Texas, Austin) 2023.

**TEACHING**

College of William & Mary

*Metaphysics*  
*Philosophy of Race*  
*Truth and Time Seminar*  
*Gender Identity* (independent study)  
*Social Ontology Seminar*  
*Feminist Metaphysics*  
*Truthmakers* (independent study)  
*The Metaphysics of Race* (independent study)  
*Kant and Arendt* (independent study)  
*Kant and his Successors*  
*Knowledge and Reality*  
*Truth: What is it? Why Care about it?*

*Honors Theses:* Kristen Ekstrom (committee 2016-2017), Riley Covert (advisor 2019), Bryce Herndon (committee 2018-2019), Luke Erdhal (advisor fall 2019), Jake Beardsley (advisor 2020-2021), Neal Going (advisor 2020-2021).

Central Michigan University:

*Truth and Time*  
*Introduction to Philosophy*  
*Contemporary Moral Problems*  
*Business Ethics* (online)

California State University, Long Beach:

*Introduction to Ethics*

University of California, Irvine:

*Philosophy of Mind*